

COLUMBIA.

Wednesday Morning, Dec. 5, 1866.

War an Epidemic.

The causes of war are more or less involved in obscurity, like those of epidemic diseases; they sometimes remain latent and smouldering for a long period, until some chance spark kindles a conflagration, which spreads swift ruin far beyond the boundaries of the country where it first blazed forth. That the mind is liable, like the body, to epidemics, is shown in religion, in politics, in monetary affairs and in fashions. Opinions and fashions spring up, prevail and subside, like a genuine epidemic. In politics, the revolutionary agitations, in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and the reform movements in the present century, were epidemics. And to the latter, we may add the pestilence of war, which so lately raged four years throughout our own broad country, devastating the cities and plains of the South. The recent European war was an epidemic which spread with marvellous rapidity from the shores of the Baltic to those of the Mediterranean. Its contagious influence threatened at one moment to overspread all Europe; and, suddenly, as it seemed to subside, after having swept through Prussia, Italy, Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Hanover and the little cluster of Northern States, there is no telling how soon it may again burst forth with fresh and redoubled fury. With the guns of Candia booming again on our ears, we listen for Russian cannon that may roar in a new Crimean campaign. In the busy hum of industry in all the armories and arsenals of France, in the universal armaments in progress throughout Europe—Russia swelling her ranks by 300,000 recruits, Prussia organizing for new corps, Austria remodelling and reforming, all States, large and small, infected with the mania for "big battalions," testing new weapons and discussing new military systems—in all these signs of the times, we see premonitory symptoms of another epidemic of war. Insurrections in Spain, and last, not least, the Fenian outbreak in Great Britain, together with dull rumors of an impending war between that country and the United States, are additional illustrations of war as epidemic. The millennium which shall cure it has not yet dawned.

AN OCEAN YACHT RACE.—The New Yorkers go it on a grand figure. The papers state that a good deal of interest is felt in the forth-coming yacht race across the Atlantic. Three yachts—the *Fleetwing*, owned by Mr. Osgood; the *Vesta*, by Mr. Lorillard; and the *Henrietta*, by J. G. Bennett, Jr.—start from that port for Cowes, on the 11th of December, the one arriving first to be entitled to the sum of \$90,000, which has been staked on the result.

ANTI-RITUAL MOVEMENT.—A number of the Episcopal clergy in New York are engaged in a movement to modify very materially, if not abolish altogether, the ritual of that church. The movement seems to be co-operative with the efforts of a similar character in England. The present ritual undoubtedly needs revision. The morning service is protracted and heavy. Many obsolete words are retained, and some that are used now mean precisely opposite their original meaning.

A bill passed both branches of the Mississippi Legislature restoring all lands sold for taxes of 1861, 1862 and 1863, to their owners, provided they were in 1861 citizens of the State, and still continue to be, upon payment of costs, and any amount of county tax the State may have paid since she acquired title. This is a very judicious measure, and if such an one is demanded in this State, we hope the Legislature will pass it. Whatever can be legally done for the relief of the people should enlist the attention and prompt action of the Legislature.

ORANGES.—The Louisiana Planter's *Runner* says: "Oranges now load many trees in this Parish, and their golden fruit looks tempting to the passer-by. No fruit tree on earth can be more beautiful than the orange tree, loaded with its yellow, luscious, autumnal crop, hanging upon branches amidst thousands of glossy leaves of the richest hue." We should say so.

LOSSES OF THE UNITED STATES

TROOPS DURING THE WAR.—The report of the United States Provost Marshal-General, which has recently been published, contains some curious statistical information. It seems that, under the Act of March 3, 2,254,063 men were enrolled in the "loyal" States, exclusive of 1,000,516 then under arms. The deserters arrested and returned to the army numbered 76,526, the highest ratio of desertion, per thousand, being in Connecticut, where it reached 117.23. It is, of course, considered probable, by the Provost Marshal-General, that nearly all the deserters were foreigners, and he states that the great mass of the bounty-jumpers were notoriously so.

The casualties in the entire military force of the United States, during the war, as shown by the official muster-rolls and monthly returns, include 5,221 commissioned officers and 70,868 enlisted men killed in action, or died of wounds while in service; 5,321 commissioned officers and 182,329 enlisted men who died from disease or accident; making an aggregate of 280,739 officers and men of the army who lost their lives in service.

Among the negro troops, the deaths by disease were largely disproportioned to those by the casualties of war, being 141.39 per thousand, against 42.27 per thousand in the white regulars, while in battle the ratio was but 16.11, against 35.10.

ANOTHER REASON FOR DEFEATING THE AMENDMENT—A JOKE.—In the recent Women's Rights Convention at Albany, Mr. Pillsbury offered the following:

"Resolved, That the introduction of the word 'male,' three times repeated in the constitutional amendments now pending before the States, is a gross insult to all womankind everywhere, and an outrage on the genius of the nineteenth century; and on that ground alone, were there no other reason, we earnestly hope those amendments will be repudiated."

This resolution was adopted with great applause.

GRAND RAFFLE FOR A PLANTATION.—The great feature of the Louisiana Agricultural Fair, was the grand raffle for the Cold Spring Plantation, valued at \$40,000. The plantation contains 2,400 acres, 1,000 of which are cleared, and is situated in the finest cotton region of Louisiana. There is a large and commodious dwelling on the place, nicely furnished throughout, with kitchen and all necessary out-houses. The quarters capable of accommodating fifty hands, with the stables, gin house, grist mill, smoke-house, blacksmith shop, etc., are all in splendid repair. The plantation is well stocked in horses, cattle, hogs, etc., and has corn, hay, fodder, etc., enough for the next season. The tickets were fixed at \$5.

CHANGE OF TACTICS.—Gen. Forrest recently addressed the citizens of Little Rock, on the subject of the railroad in course of construction from that city to Memphis. He is reported to have humorously said, that he had changed his policy in regard to railroads; that he had devoted much attention in the past to tearing them up, but that he wished to devote all his energies hereafter to laying them down. Here is an argument for practical reconstruction. We trust it will be favorably received by such papers at the North as profess to believe that the "rebels" of the South are unwilling to engage in the work of reconstruction.

George Washington, a nephew of the immortal, died suddenly a few days since, in Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio, while attending a case he had in court. His remains were taken to Prince William County, for interment.

A bill has been passed by the Tennessee House of Representatives, appropriating the Hermitage property and 200 acres of the home of Gen. Jackson to the General Government, to be used as a branch of the West Point Military Academy.

A Mr. Jerome, of New York city, has a private theatre attached to his residence, in which complete Italian operas are given, to a select audience of two hundred.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON, DEC. 4.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
Steamship *Monika*, Lebbay, New York.

N. C. BUCKWHEAT FLOUR!

Far superior to the Northern. SOU KROUT, very fine and fresh. CRANBERRIES, as fine as possible. The above will be sold at very low prices to dealers.

A further supply of MOUNTAIN BUTTER expected daily. EDWARD SILL, Washington street.

Legislature of South Carolina.

Monday, December 5, 1866.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock. An Act to amend an Act, entitled "An Act to amend the charter of the Calhoun Insurance Company of Charleston," received the third reading. The title was changed to an Act, and it was returned to the House.

Mr. Fort presented the petition of William Kinsler, Edward Kinsler and H. O. Kinsler, praying that their ferry across Congaree river, at Columbia, be not discontinued.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill to incorporate the Charleston and Florida Steam Packet Company; also, the petition of Louis M. Coxeter, Theodore D. Wagner and others, praying an Act of incorporation for the Charleston and Florida Steam Packet Company; and the report of the Commissioners of the Poor, from December 28, 1865, to November 14, 1866.

Mr. Buist presented the petition of Daniel D. Cohen, Asher D. Cohen, McDuff Cohen, and Rosalie L. Cohen, praying that the reward of jury for slaves executed in 1861 be ordered to be paid.

Mr. Tillman presented the petition of Miss M. H. Bus, praying legislation to provide for the education of the orphan children of deceased soldiers.

Mr. Shingler presented the petition of the Town Council of Summerville, South Carolina, praying that the said town of Summerville be annexed to the District of Berkeley; also, the return of the Commissioners of Free Schools of St. James' Santee, and St. James' Goose Creek, Berkeley District, for 1866.

Messrs. Thomson, Williams, Tracey, Tillman, McCutchen and Townsend presented reports of Committees.

Mr. Brown offered a resolution that a Special Committee of three be appointed from the Senate, to meet and confer with a similar Committee from the House of Representatives, on the subject of purchasing corn to meet the wants of the people of this State; which was agreed to.

Message No. 3, from his Excellency the Governor, in relation to the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, was communicated to the Senate.

A bill to repeal the usury laws of this State was taken up for consideration, and after some time, passed in the consideration thereof, the yeas and nays were taken upon the question, as follows:

YEAS—Hon. J. B. Kershaw, President pro tem., and Messrs. Arthur, Brown, Bratton, Buist, Dozier, Frierson, Graham, Hensley, McCutchen, McDuffie, McQueen, Richardson, Shingler, Skipper, Tillman, Townes, Townsend, Tracey and Weatherly. NAYS—Messrs. Beatty, Charles, Fort, Sullivan, Thomson, G. W. Williams, Wilson, and Winsmith.

The bill was therefore agreed to, and was ordered to be returned to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Townsend, from the Special Joint Committee appointed to mature a plan for organizing and establishing a College, etc., reported a bill to carry into effect the donation made by an Act of Congress to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Mr. Arthur presented the petition of the Columbia Bridge Company, for leave to discontinue a road.

Mr. G. W. Williams offered a resolution that the Treasurer of the State furnish copies of certain Acts and resolutions of the Legislature to the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Tracy introduced a bill to shorten and regulate the publication of notices to absent defendants in Equity.

Mr. Fort introduced a bill to call a convention of the people of the State of South Carolina.

Mr. Townes introduced bills to alter and fix the times of holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State; to repeal the Acts establishing District Courts, and to abolish arrests and imprisonment in civil suits at law, except in certain cases.

Mr. McCutchen introduced a bill to incorporate the village of Kingstree.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
At 12 o'clock, the Clerk called the roll, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Boggs.

The Senate sent to the House a resolution in relation to United States Senator; which was agreed to.

A message was received from the Senate, proposing to go into an election for Solicitors of the Southern, Western and Middle Circuits, on Tuesday, 4th instant, at 1 P. M.

Mr. McKewen presented the petition of the Town Council of Summerville, praying that the town of Summerville may be hereafter included in Berkeley District.

Mr. Coogan presented the memorial and petition of a number of citizens of Charleston, praying for suitable legislation to prevent a repetition of a certain grievance.

Mr. Wagner presented the report of the Commissioners of the Poor from December 28, 1865, to November 14, 1866.

Mr. Siegling presented the petition of A. J. White and others, praying an Act of incorporation for the Farmers' and Merchants' City Railway Company of South Carolina.

Mr. Magrath presented the petition of Dawson & Co., praying legislative aid in the printing and publishing of a new Law Digest.

Mr. Lucas presented the petition of the Board of Public Buildings of Chesterfield District, praying for an appropriation to build the Court House and Jail in said District.

Mr. Gavin presented the petition of the Upper Board of Commissioners of Roads for St. George's Parish, praying to be allowed to discontinue an old road, and substitute another.

Mr. Coker presented the petition of stockholders of Society Hill and Marlboro Bridge Company, for amendment of charter.

Mr. Barton presented the petition of Wm. A. Easterline and Thomas B. Boyd, praying the permission of the Legislature to dispose of certain lands by lottery.

Mr. Talley presented the return of the Commissioners of Free Schools for Richland District; also, the account of Dr. W. L. Templeton, for post mortem examination.

James E. Black, praying payment of salary as Assistant Professor of Mathematics of Citadel Academy; also, the petition of John Waties, praying for salary as Clerk and Librarian of the Court of Appeals.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, on a bill to relieve the pecuniary distress of the inhabitants of this State, and to aid in rebuilding the cities of Charleston and Columbia; and after some discussion, it was made the special order of the day for Thursday next, at half-past 12 o'clock P. M.

Mr. Gayer introduced a bill to incorporate "The Washington Light Infantry Charitable Association."

Mr. T. P. Mikell introduced a bill to amend the Act establishing the University of South Carolina.

Mr. W. A. Moore introduced a bill to extend the limit to the number of sureties now allowed on bonds of Commissioners in Equity.

Mr. Suber introduced a bill to grant jurisdiction to the Ordinary in certain cases of dower.

Mr. Springs introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that the Clerk be authorized to receive the names of such persons as may have been omitted in the tax-collectors' lists, in their late returns to the Governor, who have been deprived of their limbs, or who were permanently disabled in the State or Confederate service during the war, and that he be instructed to publish and file a list of the same with the journal of the House, with the view to a permanent record.

Mr. Black introduced a bill to create the office and prescribe the duties of tax assessors for the several Districts in this State; also, a bill to withdraw certain un-drawn appropriations heretofore made.

Mr. Wagener introduced resolutions, which were agreed to, and ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence, that it is the solemn duty of a State to provide a proper system of education for her children; that his Excellency the Governor be instructed to appoint a commission of three persons to prepare and report to the General Assembly a system of common schools suitable to our altered circumstances and the requirements of the times; also, that the Committee on Education of both Houses report at an early day upon reviving our former schools, with additional provisions for the teaching of our colored people, until the above report of the commission can be had.

Message No. 3 was then received from his Excellency the Governor, and was read by Mr. Henry Sparhawk.

The Governor states that the reports of the Commissioners and Associate Principals of the South Carolina Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, furnish full information of the present condition and future prospects of an institution which reflects much credit on the State for its noble and humane charity. The aggregate of the appropriation required for the ensuing year is \$12,000. Of this sum, \$8,000 is needed for the support of the institution and \$4,000 for the repair of the main building, which appropriation he recommends. Adjourned.

Billiard Table for Sale.

ANY one desirous of obtaining such an article cheap, can do so by applying at ANTON ROUN, Assembly street. Dec 5

FANNING'S RESTAURANT!

Assembly Street, nearly opposite the New Market.

THIS establishment has been refitted, and the very best of everything can be obtained there.

FISH and GAME prepared in every style. WINES, LIQUORS and CIGARS of choice brands on hand.

LUNCH every day from 11 to 1 o'clock. Dec 5

Columbia Restaurant!

LUNCH.

THE following will be served up THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock a. m.:

STEVENED OYSTERS, CODFISH BALLS, LIVER and ONIONS.

25 Families furnished with Oysters in the shell and opened. Dec 5

D. McGUINNIS.

POLLOCK HOUSE.

BILL OF FARE.

THE following will be served up THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock:

OYSTER SOUP, SOUSED SALMON, JOHNNY REB. FRY. Dec 5

T. M. POLLOCK.

J. SULZBACHER & CO.

HAVE just received per Express another fresh supply of the first quality SPECTACLES; and those parties wishing to preserve their sight would do well to call on us and get a pair to suit them, as there is nothing so necessary to the human being as a good pair of eyes. GLASSES of all focuses always on hand and fitted to any style of frame.

IS. SULZBACHER, Watch-maker.

Watches, Clocks and Jewelry REPAIRED, and warranted. Dec 5

FISH ROE, FISH ROE.

JUST received, a small lot of DRIED MULLET ROES, from Moorhead City, N. C.

Also, per late steamers from New York: 100 boxes No. 1 and Extra Scaled HERBINGS.

20 boxes E. Dairy and Cheddar CHEESE. NEW PRUNES, FIGS, RAISINS. FRENCH CONFECTIONERY, &c. At

MELVIN M. COHEN'S,

Assembly street, West side, One door from Pendleton street. Dec 5

Richland Lodge No. 39, A. F. M.

A regular communication of this Lodge will be held THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, 5th instant, at 7 o'clock, at Odd Fellows' Hall.

As this is the night for the election of officers, a full attendance is desired. By order of the W. M.

Dec 5

R. FOZER, Secretary.

ESTRAY HORSE.

TAKEN up, about three months ago, near Sabney Hunt Creek, in Lexington District, a bay MARE, blind in both eyes, tail short—no particular marks noticed. The owner will come forward, prove property, pay expenses and take her away. Apply to ADAM THREWITS, at Mr. Abram Geiger's plantation. Dec 2

Salmon and Mackerel.

KITS CHOICE SALMON, for family use. No. 1 Mackerel, " " " " Just received and for sale by J. & T. R. AGNEW. Dec 2

Citron, Currants, Raisins, &c.

25 BOXES CITRON. 75 " Raisins, assorted packages, together with a full supply of Currants, Prunes, Soft-Shell Almonds, whole and ground Spices, &c., constantly on hand and for sale low by J. & T. R. AGNEW. Dec 2

KEROSENE OIL.

10 BBLS. extra pure KEROSENE OIL, just received and for sale by J. & T. R. AGNEW. Dec 2

Hecker's Self-Raising Flour.

A FULL supply of HECKER'S SELF-RAISING FLOUR, constantly on hand and for sale at retail by J. & T. R. AGNEW. Dec 2

Circular Saws.

A FULL assortment of best quality Cast Steel CIRCULAR SAWS, from 8 to 52 inches in diameter, just received and for sale low by J. & T. R. AGNEW.

How A YOUNG WOMAN STOLE

PANTALOONS.—A young lady by the name of Herbert was caught the other evening in the act of stealing pants in a ready-made clothing store in Montreal. Her *modus operandi* was, after carrying the unmentionables (which she made up at home for the firm) into the back store, she would draw on two or three pairs, and by turning up the legs so that they could not be seen below her dress, she would pass out unnoticed.

Two young fellows got to bantering each other, the other day. Finally one of them exclaimed, "Well, there is one thing, you can't put your head into an empty barrel." "Oh, nonsense," exclaimed the other, "why can't I?" "Because," dryly rejoined the first, "it is impossible to put a hog's head into a barrel."

A man named Oats was had up recently for beating his wife and children. On being sentenced to imprisonment, the brute remarked that it was very hard that a man was not allowed to thrash his own oats.

Of all declaration of love, the most admirable was that which a gentleman made to a young lady, who asked him to show her a picture of the one he loved. He immediately presented her with a mirror.

Choice Articles.

OLD GOVERNMENT JAVA COFFEE, of the very best quality. Choice LAGUNA COFFEE, " MARACAIBO " " RIO " Extra fine Goshen Butter, " Northern Eating Potatoes, Hecker's Self-Raising Buckwheat, Flour, Extra New-hulled Buckwheat, Splendid Cheese, Choice Golden Syrup, Extra New Rice, Choice Dried Apples, Sugar-cured Hams, Fresh Country Butter received tri-weekly per Express.

North Carolina Sour Krent, very fine. With many other desirable articles—all warranted as represented. For sale by Dec 5

MULLER & SENN.

Fresh Crackers.

SODA BISCUIT, Milk Boston " Egg WINE CRACKERS, Fancy " Farina " Ginger Snaps, Cup Biscuit. All fresh and of the best quality. Just received and for sale by Dec 5

MULLER & SENN.

FRESH ARRIVALS.

ORANGES, LEMONS, CURRANTS, RAISINS, CITRON, APPLES, &c. Dec 4

JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

OLD RYE AND CORN WHISKEY.

GIBSON'S FAMILY NECTAR, Treble A, Old Kentucky Bourbon, Old North Carolina Corn Whiskey, Old Apple Brandy. Wholesale and retail. Dec 4

JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

IMPORTED

Wines and Liquors.

OLD HOLLAND GIN, OLD COGNAC BRANDY, Stewart's Scotch Whiskey, Old Jamaica Rum, Old Sherry Wine, Old Port Wine, Rhine Wine, Claret Wines, Absinth, in cases, French Cherries, in cases, Madame G. Rheumat and Foxsardin a Reims Champagne. Wholesale and retail. Dec 4

JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

TOILET SOAPS!

JUST received, a full assortment of COLGATE'S FINEST SOAPS, including Honey, Glycerine, Palm, Magnolia, Sun-flower, Brown Windsor, &c. For sale low by Dec 2

GEO. SYMMERS.

SUGAR-CURED

Breakfast Bacon.

1,000 LBS. New York SUGAR-CURED STRIPS, strictly choice, just received, at reduced price. Dec 2

GEO. SYMMERS.

For Sale.

A MEDIUM-SIZED COOKING-STOVE, nearly new, for sale cheap. Apply at this office. Dec 2

10 BBL. MOLASSES.

LOW to dealers. Nov 20

JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

5 DOZEN BROOMS.

4 " Market Baskets, 4 " Clothes Baskets. Nov 20

JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

Violin and Guitar

STRINGS.

SUPERIOR ITALIAN STRINGS, of my own selection. Also, a fine assortment of Violin Bows, Violin Screws, Violin Tail Boards and Violin Bridges. Just received at E. POLLARD'S. Dec 2

HONEY, HONEY.

50 GALLONS of clear WEST INDIA HONEY, for sale by the pint, quart or gallon, at E. POLLARD'S. Dec 2

TOILET EXTRACTS.

SWEET OPOPOX, from Mexico. S. Phalen's Night Blooming Cereus. Lubin's Jockey Club, Patchouly. Pond Lily, Rose Geranium and many other nice Perfumeries. Just received at Dec 2

E. POLLARD'S.

Read This—No More Suffering from

Toothache or Neuralgia.

THE subscriber has been appointed agent for WOLCOTT'S PAIN ANNIHILATOR. One trial is sufficient to prove its superiority over all other medicines of this character. Country merchants supplied at low prices. It can be found at the principal drug stores.

S. R. NORTH, Agent. All communications left at E. E. JACKSON'S Drug Store will receive prompt attention. Dec 1 mo

Local Items.

The Phoenix office is on Main street, a few doors above Taylor (or Camden) street.

A meeting of the "Survivors' Association" of Kershaw's Brigade, will be held at Nickerson's Hotel, this evening, at half-past 7 o'clock.

ELECTIONS BY THE LEGISLATURE.—On yesterday, Col. Simeon Fair was re-elected Solicitor of the Middle Circuit, and Col. John H. Evans elected Solicitor of the Western Circuit.

OUR READING ROOM. Members of the Legislature and the citizens generally, are invited to visit the *Phoenix* reading room, where they will find on file papers and periodicals from every section of the Union. The building is open day and night.